

The Interpreter Guild: Apprentice to Mastercrafts(wo)man

CPC Tenet 5: Interpreters demonstrate respect for colleagues, interns, and students of the profession.

The Presenter has been in the interpreting field 40 years and has watched the evolution of field, having trained, mentored, and been a practitioner in a myriad of venues. This workshop is the culmination of discussions with mentees, newly certified interpreters, teammates, and colleagues who train interpreters and mentors. The Presenter credits her passion of this concept to the Deaf community, who taught her reciprocity.

In Medieval times, craftsmen joined together in guilds to protect their trade secrets, to ensure the preservation of their crafts, and to train those who desired to learn the crafts from those most experienced. The metaphor of a guild applies to the field of sign language interpreters: apprentices, journeymen, and master crafts(wo)men are equivalent to ITP graduates, practitioners, and mentors/trainers. It expresses the positivity interpreters can accomplish as a whole.

There will always be the lone wolf rogues who defy collegiality, the youth who believe they have it all, and the old warriors who have become cynical. The intent of the workshop is to present tools to make our self-assessments more honest, our interactions more cohesive, our mentoring more effective, and our vision of our craft more single minded.

This workshop is organic and dependent upon the participants. I approach this from the viewpoint of someone trying to break into the field without reinventing the wheel but at the same time being exposed to participants with a range of experience. The "apprentices" have to pay their dues to the craft; the "journeymen" have honed their craft but still want to learn more; and the "master crafts(wo)men" have the heart and mastery of the craft to share with those who are teachable. In this type of Guild environment, everyone benefits and the craft is only more perfected.

The activities and discussions in this workshop will require participation not only from those "apprentices" but also from working interpreters "journeymen" and those leaders and mentors in the field as "master crafts(wo)men" to create a holistic approach to professionalism and nurturing excellence from all who call themselves interpreters. Emphasis on professional standards, communication, teamwork, and sharing knowledge creates a guild environment where the participants take care of their own in a safe environment!

Presenter will introduce to the seasoned professionals those tools necessary to continue to be the model and plumbline to emerging professionals as well as deliberately practice ways to communicate effectively with all levels of our field in an collegial way as required by Tenet 5.

Presenter: Paula D. Browning

Paula D. Browning (RID CSC and NIC Advanced, NAD IV, EIPA 4.7) has an eclectic professional background. Interpreting nearly 40 years, she has worked in venues such as Salk Institute, Deaf West Theatre, SERID, CAL-Ed, Alabama Interpreter Metamorphosis, and Alabama's Mental Health Interpreter Training, as well as in educational, community, legal, mental health, and video relay. Paula has presented workshops since 1982, but nationwide since 1997; has been a mentor/trainer in CSUN, Mississippi, Troy University, Georgia Perimeter College's "Boot Camp," and in the Video Outreach Mentorship Program through PEPNet's WROCC. Recently she was published by the release of her DVD "Personal or Professional: The Ethics Conundrum." Quarterly workshops are hosted by her company, Interpreter Guild LLC, in Ocean Springs, MS, bringing in national presenters from all over the United States and encompassing participants from Louisiana to Florida to Tennessee. For more information, go to www.Interpreter-Guild.com.